Ephemeral-
ALACHUA
Co.

Welcome To

gainesville

ALACHUA COUNTY

F L O R I D A

ACCREDITED
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
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Prepared by the
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Gainesville

Located amid the rolling highlands of north central Florida, midway between the Gulf of Mexico and the Atlantic Ocean, Gainesville lies halfway between Miami and Pensacola, 70 miles southwest of Jacksonville, 134 miles northeast of the Tampa-St. Petersburg area, and 143 miles southeast of the state capital, Tallahassee.

The county seat and largest city of Alachua County, Gainesville is the focal point of diversified industrial and agricultural activity. The city is fed by Seaboard Coast Line Railway, Greyhound and Trailways bus lines, and 16 motor freight lines, as well as three U. S. highways (441, 301, and 41), and Interstate 75.

As the home of the University of Florida, Gainesville functions as the state's center for science, education and medicine. A modern, cosmopolitan city, it is an active and growing community, highlighted by progressive thinking and enterprising ideas.

POPULATION
City — 67,500 (est. 1970)
Urban Area — 81,280 (est. 1970)
County — 103,600 (est. 1970)

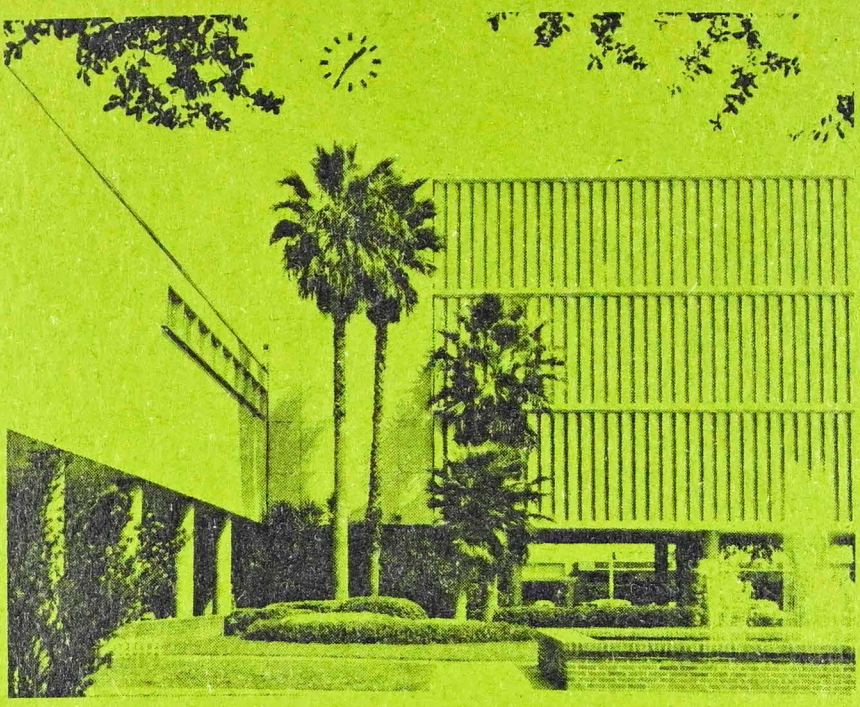
AREA
City — 25.0 sq. mi.
County — 965 sq. mi.

ELEVATION
180 feet above sea level

Historical Facts About Gainesville

On September 6, 1854, the County Commissioners of Alachua County provided for planting and founding of a county seat to be named Gainesville. No reason is known for the selection of the name, but it is said that the town was named in honor of General Gaines, a Revolutionary War hero who was the captor of Aaron Burr.

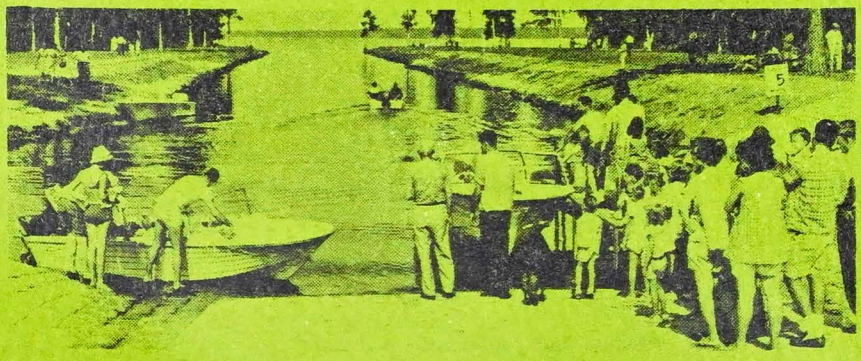
In 1886, the East Florida Seminary was moved to Gainesville from Ocala. This Seminary was merged into the University of Florida by the Buckman Act of 1905.



The land upon which the city of Gainesville is situated is part of a grant of 289,645 acres from the King of Spain to Don Fernando de la Mata Arredondo and son, merchants of Havana, Cuba. The Arredondo Grant, dated December 22, 1817, takes as a center point a Seminole Indian Village called "Alachua." The word "Alachua" is said by some to mean "grassy" while other authorities claim it means "jug" perhaps in reference to the large sink hole nearby. The Arredondo Grant was made void when Florida became a territory of the United States by treaty with Spain on February 22, 1819.

Amusement and Recreation

Gainesville is located in the heart of one of the finest fishing areas in the United States. Many rivers are immediately available in the vicinity of Gainesville and within a 20 mile radius, the fishing enthusiast can find several hundred fresh-water lakes.



For the salt water fisherman, Gainesville makes an ideal base of operations. Seventy-five miles to the east, the Atlantic Ocean offers unexcelled surf casting, especially when the sea bass are running. Only 55 miles west, the Gulf of Mexico offers black bass, sea trout, red fish, jack crevalle, blue fish, grouper and the king of sport fish - the tarpon.

The hunter, too, will find Gainesville ideally situated. Deer, wild turkey, duck, quail, dove and squirrel are all plentiful in the national forests, as well as on privately owned land.

Four of the best eighteen hole golf courses, including one of the largest lighted courses, in the state are located in Gainesville. Special tournaments may be arranged for convention delegates. The rolling terrain offers a challenging test of the golfer's skill, although the courses prove interesting to the "hacker" as well as the low handicap golfer.

The variety of spectator sports in Gainesville is practically unlimited. In addition to all of the intercollegiate football, baseball, basketball, golf, tennis and swimming events at the University, both high schools participate in inter-scholastic competition. Little League baseball and midget football have reached a highly developed stage in the city. One of the highlights of the year is the annual Florida Relays. This nationally recognized track and field events brings to Gainesville some of the country's top athletes.

Climate

Temperature* - Mean annual 70.4 degrees; January average 58.4 degrees; July average 81.0 degrees.

There is an average of 30-40 days of early morning fog each year. This rarely interferes with aviation. More than 300 days a year are considered by the government to be good flying days. Over the past 33 years, there has been an average of 2,803 hours of sunshine per year. This is 62% of possible sunshine hours.

The pleasant hill country of north central Florida is highlighted by the relatively low humidity. This factor is a great element in the fine reaction that is felt by many sufferers of ailments that are aggravated by excess amount of moisture in the atmosphere.

Hurricanes - Gainesville is fortunate in that there has never been serious damage done here by hurricanes. These destructive forces seem to be confined almost entirely to the coastal areas of the State.

Health Factors - The year-round climate in Gainesville seems to be especially adapted to the relief of suffering by those afflicted with asthma and certain allergies. Many instances of relief have been evidenced by those coming from different climates.

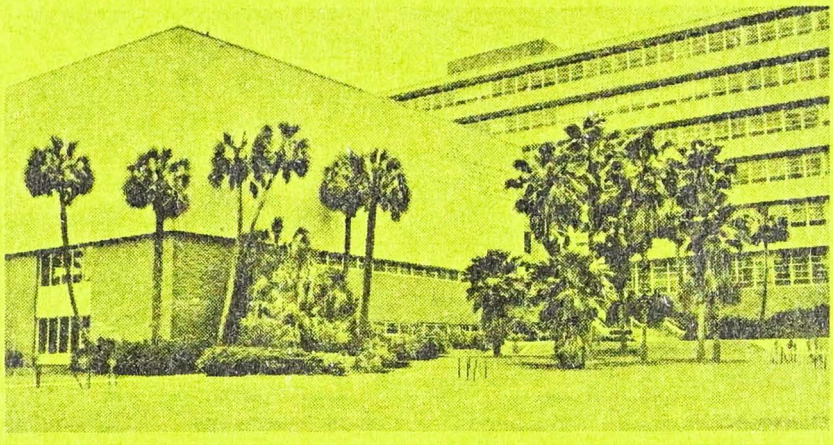
Alachua County, with an area of 570,880 acres, lies in the north-central section of the state. A variety of good soil types and a moderate climate support a well-diversified balanced agricultural program.

Education & Health

Gainesville is justly proud of its public school system, considered to be one of the foremost in Florida. The building program has kept pace with the increased enrollment so that there are at present within the city 18 modern secondary and elementary schools in addition to the new Santa Fe Junior College and the University of Florida.

There are approximately 1,000 instructional personnel for Alachua County's 23,578 school enrollment.

The University of Florida, with an enrollment of over 21,000 students, is the largest university in the Southeast and a recognized leader in higher education. It contributes much to the civic life of the community as well as increasing the scholastic advantages offered to students living in the vicinity. The University encompasses all of the professional colleges on one campus. The Engineering and Industrial Experiment Station (research laboratory for industries of Florida) and the Agricultural Experiment and Extension Service play important roles in the growth of the state and contribute greatly to the economic stability of the area. Among 121 American universities the University of Florida ranks in the top twenty in volume of research which presently reaches $21,000,000 and is rapidly growing. Please address THE REGISTRAR, University of Florida, for catalog.



The J. Hillis Miller Health Center, newest and largest medical complex in the South, houses the College of Medicine, the College of Nursing, the College of Pharmacy, and the College of Health Related Professions, and the College of Dentistry.

The center includes a 400-bed teaching hospital and other facilities necessary to conduct a complete medical program.

Just south of the University Health Center is the new 500-bed Veterans' Administration Hospital.

In addition to the schools within the immediate area, there are other new and modern schools throughout the county, including the new Santa Fe Junior College, temporarily housed in the Buchholz Junior High Building. The junior college assumes the vocational education program conducted through the county schools, in addition to regular junior college curriculum. A new campus is under construction west of the city adjacent to I-75.

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